

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-noted application in view of the current amendments and following arguments.

Specification

The Specification has been corrected at page 11 in response to the Examiner's objections to the drawings (Paragraph 2 of the Official Action). It will be observed that the Specification and Drawings (particularly Figure 9) now specifically recite the correct numbers for the wrist spacer 48 and the distal end 52 of the robotic arm A. Here, please note that the arm has been correctly denoted as "A" on the drawings to show the relationship between the wrist spacer and the arm, as opposed to using the reference character "R" which was confusing in its specificity. It is believed that the recitation now presented in the Specification change at page 11 will correctly set forth the description of the applicant's invention. Clean formal drawings are submitted, as previously mentioned, to remove the objections.

Claim Objections

Claims 15 and 22 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, set forth in Paragraph 5 of his action. Claim 15 has been amended at line 4 to change the word "devices" to "cups". Claim 22 has been amended at line 15 to insert a comma notation after the word "points", and also to establish the plate to be mounted to the end effector rather than to the robot.

The Examiner has objected to claim 23 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c). However, it has been further noted by the Applicant that the claim contains redundant subject matter. This will be observed upon a reading of claim elements set forth in lines 15 and 16 of claim 22 upon which claim 23 depends. It is believed that the Examiner's

rejection of claim 23 and his arguments therefore actually related to claim 24 which has been currently amended as mentioned above. It is believed that claim 24 should now be found to be allowed as dependant upon amended claim 22. Accordingly, the claim numbered 23 has been changed to claim 24 and original claim 23 has been cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (second paragraph). Claim 24 is currently amended to cure the lack of antecedent basis by specifically setting forth as being depending in perpendicular relationship to the "end effector" and that the particular suction cups that are shown as being mounted on the plate include means for drawing vacuum. Claim 22 has been amended to more definitely recite the end effector rather than the robot itself so that the plate can have a recitation of dependency from the end effector and be more specific in its recitation. It is believed that, as amended, claim 24 now recites patentable subject matter. Allowance of claim 24 is respectfully requested.

Please note that the Examiner had objected to claim 23, which has now been cancelled. It is believed that the correct objection should have been directed to claim 24, rather than claim 23 and, accordingly, allowance of claim 24 is again respectfully requested.

The Examiner, in Paragraphs 1 and 13 of the present Office Action, indicated claim 24 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (second paragraph). Further, claim 24 includes all of the limitations of the base claim 22 to meet the requirements of allowability as the Examiner further states in paragraphs 1 and 13. No further matter has been added by the suggested amendments to claim 24.

It is believed that each of the objections and rejections set forth by the Examiner in his Final Action have been accepted by the Applicant and that the Applicant has respectfully complied fully with the Examiner's kind suggestions for amendments.

Summary

Each of the prior art made of record have been thoroughly considered, and it is agreed, although the art may be considered pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure, it does not effect patentability of the claims as presented herein.

The Applicant has made every effort to comply with suggestions kindly offered by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that amended claims 15, 16, 22 and 24, as well as previously presented claims 20, 21, and 25 be passed to early allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,

By 
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Enclosures: RCE Transmittal Letter
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